

Summary of Certification Advisory Committee Minutes
R7-2-613(L) Early Childhood Endorsement

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008

Members Present

Mr. Tim Carter
Ms. Carol Christine
Mr. Jac Heiss
Mr. Kevin Kapp
Mr. Andrew Morrill
Ms. Kim Peaslee
Ms. Lani Simmons (Telephonically)
Ms. Anne Thiebeau

Members Absent

Ms. Bobbie Darroch
Mr. Frank Garcia
Ms. Jana Kooi
Mr. Chris Maza
Ms. Jean Petty

II. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO A.A.C. R7-2-613(L), RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT

Ms. Amator gave background information on the proposed rule changes regarding the Early Childhood Certificate and the Early Childhood Endorsement. Ms. Amator introduced Amy Corriveau, Deputy Associate Superintendent for Early Childhood Education. Ms. Corriveau explained two areas of concern regarding the July, 2009 deadline to meet the new early childhood requirements: (1) those who were certified after July 1, 2006 but will not have the 3 years of PreK-3 teaching experience and will, therefore, be required to do 4 semester hours of student teaching in a preschool setting as well as the 4 semester hours of student teaching they completed in grades K-3, and (2) those who are teaching in pre-school where they did not have to be certified prior to the creation of the Early Childhood Teaching Certificate and will not meet the requirements before the deadline. We currently have only 3 state approved programs for higher education institutions, and a recent graduation produced only 34 graduates, which will not enable us to meet the demand for new hires next year.

Ms. Corriveau presented two proposed solutions for committee consideration: (1) an amendment to Rule Language R-7-2-613(L) (4) for the endorsement extending the date from July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2009. This would allow recent graduates from 2006 and 2007 to get their teaching experience. (2) Many teachers in the pre-school setting who had no prior certification and no teaching degree, enrolled in classes four years ago, but are only able to take one or two classes while they work. Amending Rule Language R-7-2-612 (l) (l) to extend the date from 2009 to 2012, with the contingency that the district and the employee enter into a plan where a date would be set for completion of the AEPA exam and when they will finish their coursework so the District will know when they would be in compliance.

Chair Morrill asked Ms. Corriveau if these solutions would permanently resolve the problem, or if it would be an ongoing one. Ms. Corriveau said it would not entirely resolve the problem, but it would alleviate many of them. Chair Morrill asked for some discussion of the ramification of extending by another 3 years the requirement for the early childhood certificate. Ms. Amator clarified the difference between the endorsement and the certificate. The endorsement can go on special education certificates or elementary certificates and will allow the holder to teach from birth through grade 3.

Ms. Simmons asked if there were any other endorsements that require both coursework and the passing of an AEPA test. Ms. Morgan said there a couple of endorsements that require either passing the AEPA or having the 30 hours in the subject (i.e. music, art, physical education). The library endorsement is either a Masters in Library Science or passing the AEPA test. The early childhood endorsement is the only one that requires the test. Ms. Simmons asked if one could pass the AEPA and have the early childhood education added to their certificate as an approved area. Ms. Amator said there is nothing in board rule that precludes adding an approved area but that would be futile for the applicant as it would not meet the requirement of having the endorsement.

A discussion followed regarding the need for both coursework and the AEPA test.

Mr. Carter felt that an applicant should either do the coursework and practicum or the AEPA and the practicum. Chair Morrill said this would need to be put out to stakeholders. The committee was in agreement for the extension of the deadline to July 1, 2009 and the one level of practicum (K-3 or birth-preschool). This would create an allowance for people who are caught right now. Ms. Amator said she would incorporate changes the committee has discussed and distribute a draft of the proposed revisions for the committee to review. In addition, the committee will have to work on

the language for the second amendment Ms. Corriveau is proposing as the AG will not allow the HQ requirements to go into Board rule.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2008

Members Present

Mr. Tim Carter
Ms. Carol Christine
Mr. Frank Garcia (Telephonically)
Mr. Jac Heiss
Mr. Kevin Kapp
Mr. Chris Maza
Mr. Andrew Morrill
Ms. Kim Peaslee
Ms. Lani Simmons (Telephonically)

Members Absent

Ms. Bobbie Darroch
Ms. Jana Kooi
Ms. Anne Thiebeau

II. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO A.A.C. R7-2-613(L), RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENDORSEMENTS

Ms. Amator stated this is a continuation of the conversation held at the last meeting. Ms. Amator introduced Amy Corriveau, Deputy Associate Superintendent for Early Childhood Education. Ms. Amator provided a handout of the Early Childhood Education Endorsement Language R7-2-613(L). The committee already approved extending the date from July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2009, as per option 4.

Another conversation the committee had was the requirement of coursework and the AEPA exam. The committee asked Ms. Corriveau to go back to stakeholders to discuss. Stakeholders were asked if the AEPA is equivalent to coursework.

Amy met with stakeholders on July 24 and took the AEPA practice exam and the stakeholder group did determine they would support the recommendation of that CAC that the language read coursework or AEPA exam be accepted.

Chair Morrill asked if there were any questions or input from the group. Ms. Corriveau was asked to share the representation of stakeholders. The stakeholder group was made up of representatives from First Things First, rural districts, Maricopa County, outside districts, university and community colleges. Forty people were invited and there were twenty six people representing twenty two districts or agencies. Vice Chair Peaslee asked the positions of the participants. Ms. Corriveau answered that there were two kindergarten teachers, directors of Early Childhood, and curriculum and instruction representatives. Vice Chair Peaslee asked if there were Special Education Directors present. Vice Chair Peaslee stated that there were directors that play a dual role.

Vice Chair Peaslee stated that she was very comfortable with the changes. As the motion to extend the deadline was approved at the last meeting, the committee only needs to act on the waiver of the portion of the AEPA for the 21 hours.

Ms. Amator mentioned no where in the proposed amendment was the requirement to take the professional knowledge assessment for early childhood, which would have been covered in the 21 hours. Ms. Amator said the AEPA Early Childhood subject knowledge exam tested an applicant's knowledge for the subjects they will be teaching, but the AEPA Early Childhood professional knowledge exam, which is not required by the proposed amendment as stated, tested an applicant's pedagogical for teaching early childhood.

Vice Chair Peaslee asked if there are two tests for teachers. Ms. Amator explained there are two tests for early childhood – professional knowledge and subject knowledge. Vice Chair Peaslee asked if a passing score on both the early childhood content and subject knowledge portions of the AEPA would satisfy the requirement if they did not have the 21 hours to get the endorsement. Ms. Amator stated that was a discussion the committee needed to have.

Ms. Christine stated the notes saying these tests are a substitute for a preparation program are a misrepresentation of an education. Vice Chair Peaslee agreed a test is not a substitute for learning for the coursework and/or the concepts.

Chair Morrill asked where the content would be addressed and stated it must be a part of the Special Education programs or K-8. Vice Chair Peaslee stated that it is not covered in Special Education for early childhood or elementary in depth.

Vice Chair Peaslee stated early childhood is very different from elementary and infants and toddlers do not need elementary pedagogy. They need developmentally appropriate instruction programming which is not what elementary education is at all.

Mr. Carter asked who is raising the question of the subject knowledge portion of the test not equating to the 21 hours. Chair Morrill answered the question is being raised by the committee (according to the minutes).

A brief discussion followed regarding the requirement of the practicum. Vice Chair Peaslee clarified that the practicum is not included in waiving the hours by a passing score on the test.

Vice Chair Peaslee made a motion to amend language in R7-2-613 (L)3.d. to read "A Passing score on the early childhood professional knowledge and subject knowledge portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment may be substituted for the 21 semester hours of early childhood education courses as described in R7-2-613(L).3.b.i"

Motion seconded by Mr. Kapp.

Motion passed with no objections and one abstention.

Mr. Carter made a motion to require the practicum independent of hours or passage of the AEPA portions.

Motion seconded by Mr. Heiss.

Motion passed

This agenda item was revisited after action was taken on agenda item III. A motion was made and seconded to amend R7-2-613(L).4 to read:

Teachers with a valid Arizona elementary education certificate or Arizona special education certificate as of July 1, 2012 ~~2006~~ meet the requirements of this Section with evidence of the following:

- a. A minimum of three years infant/toddler, preschool or kindergarten - grade 3 classroom teaching experience within 10 years prior to July 1, 2012 ~~2009~~, and
- b. A passing score on the early childhood subject knowledge portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment once that portion of the AEPA is adopted by the Board.

Motion passed